


NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: December YEAR: 2005
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE  Sherrie Hebert Service Hydrologist DATE: January 25, 2006
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Bitterly cold weather caused in ice jams to develop on most Eastern Idaho rivers in December, some of which did lead to minor flooding of low-lying pastureland. No injuries or damage was reported.

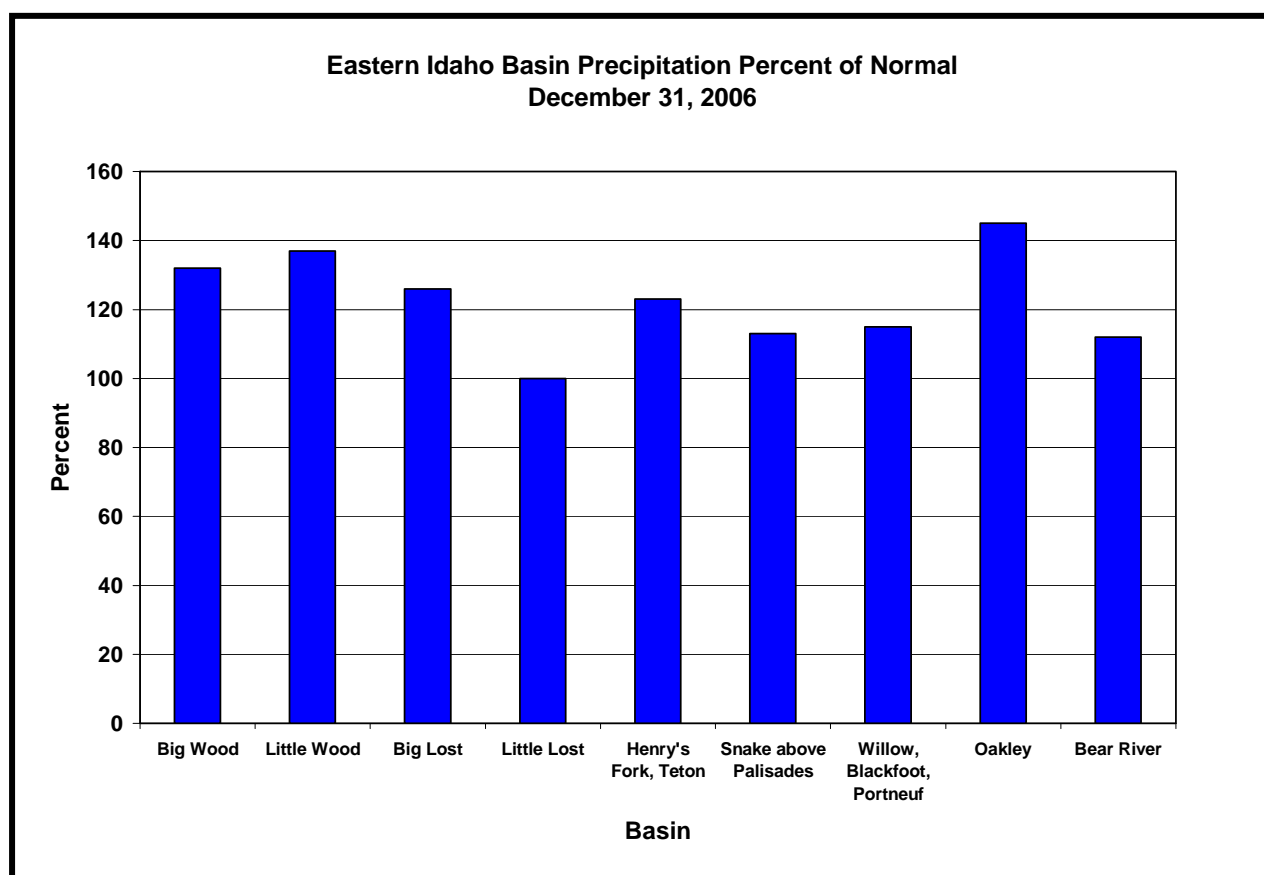
Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Precipitation was abundant across the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) for December, which was 186.7% of normal for 40 of 44 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Of the reporting stations, 21 were at least 200% of normal. Aberdeen topped the list at 427.6% of normal, just shy of a record by a ¼ inch. A number of daily precipitation records were set throughout the month and Burley recorded the fourth wettest December on record. The only stations not hitting the normal range were Stanley and Driggs with 75.9% and 62.8% of normal, respectively.

Snowpack

Eastern Idaho's December snowpack is off to a great start at an average 123% of normal, with the Central Mountains receiving the most thus far. It is much too early in the snow season to determine if this will be a drought-busting winter. However, should precipitation continue as it has, it would likely be safe to say the drought is over. Please see the graph on the following page for a summary of Eastern Idaho Basins percent of normal precipitation.



Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 48% of capacity¹, up 5% from December 12, 2005³.

Reservoir	% Capacity November 30 ²	% Capacity December 31 ¹	Percent Change	% of Average ¹	% of Last Year ¹
American Falls	36	51	15	86	114
Bear Lake	26	26	0	41	387
Blackfoot	21	23	2	37	283
Henry's Lake	94	95	1	104	134
Island Park	53	62	9	87	118
Little Wood	39	52	13	110	152
Mackay	39	53	14	99	153
Magic	23	26	3	63	250
Oakley	n/a	36	n/a	n/a	n/a
Palisades	49	56	7	75	157
Ririe	44	47	3	110	126
Lake Walcott	40 ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) NRCS, December 31, 2005; (2) NRCS, November 30, 2005; (3) Bureau of Reclamation, December 12, 2005.

Drought

Only the Central Mountains and far Eastern Idaho continue to rank on the US Drought Monitor, which has been upgraded to D0, "Abnormally Dry". Should precipitation continue in Eastern Idaho, it should be safe to state the drought will be over. However, much of the winter remains before such a statement may be made.

Hydrologic Product Summary

December 2005 Hydrologic Product Summary

Product	Number Issued
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flash Flood Statement	0
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flood Warning	1
Flood Statement	1
Flood Watch for Flooding	8 (includes 2 cxl)
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Hydrologic Outlook	0
Hydrologic Statement	4
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
Local Storm Report related to flooding	0

cc: Brian McInerney, Acting WFO Hydrology Program Manager
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Hydrometeorological Information Center
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Drought Monitor Mailing List